Proceedings of the Inaugural Meeting.*

Present:

His Honour Sir Charles S. Bayley, K.C.S.I., I.S.O., Lieutenant-Governor of Bihar and Orissa, in the Chair.

The Hon'ble Mr. E. A. Gait, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., Member, Executive Council, Bihar and Orissa.

The Hon'ble Mr. E. V. Levinge, C.S.I., I.C.S., Member, Executive Council, Bihar and Orissa.

The Hon'ble Mr. E. H. C. Walsh, C.S.I., I.C.S., Commissioner of Chota Nagpur.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. LeMesurier, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., Chief Secretary to Government, Bihar and Orissa.

The Hon'ble Mr. C. E. A. W. Oldham, I.C.S., Commissioner of Patna.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. McPherson, I.C.S., Secretary to Government, Bihar and Orissa, Revenue Department.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. G. Jennings, M.A., Director of Public Instruction, Bihar and Orissa.

The Hon'ble Maharaja Bahadur Sir Ravaneshvar Prasad Singh, K.C.I.E., of Gidhaur.

The Hon'ble Raja Rajendra Narayan Bhanj Deo of Kanika.

Nawab Shams-ul-'Ulama Saiyid Imdad Imam of Neora.

Nawab Saiyid Nasiruddin Ahmad of Bihar.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Saiyid Fakhruddin, Bankipore.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Khwaja Muhammad Nur, Gaya.

The Hon'ble Babu Dwarka Nath, Muzaffarpur.

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Krishna Sahay, Bankipore.

The Hon'ble Rev. A. Campbell, D.D. Pokhuria, Manbhum District.

H. W. P. Scroope, Esq., I.C.S., Collector of Patna.

D. B. Spooner, Esq., B.A., Ph.D., Superintendent, Archæological Department, Eastern Circle.

V. H. Jackson, Esq., M.A., Principal, Patna College.

W. Owston Smith, Esq., M.A., Professor, Patna College.

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* Held at Government House, Bankipore, at 6 P.M. on Wednesday, the 20th January 1915.

S. Ross Masood, Esq., M.A., Principal, Patna Collegiate School.
S. Sinha, Esq., Bar-at-Law, Bankipore.
K. P. Jayaswal, Esq., M.A., Bar-at-Law, Bankipore.
S. A. Raja, Esq., Bankipore.
Babu Jadunath Sarkar, M.A., Professor, Patna College.
Babu Jogindra Nath Samaddar, B.A., Professor, Patna College.
Pandit Ramavatar Sharma, M.A., Professor, Patna College.
Rai Bahadur Purnendu Narayan Singh, M.A., B.L., Government Pleader, Patna.
Babu Ram Gopal Singh Chaudhri, B.A., B.L., Patna City, and others.

1. His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor having opened the proceedings in a brief but sympathetic speech, suggested that the Hon'ble Mr. Gait might say a few words explaining why it was considered desirable to establish a Research Society in the new Province.

2. The Hon'ble Mr. (now Sir Edward) Gait, in addressing the Meeting, said :—

"I need not dilate at length on the necessity for a society to promote research in the Province. We all know that the Aryans were already settled here in very ancient times, and even when the Vedas were compiled, parts of Bihar had already been occupied by the Indo-Aryans. Several centuries before the Christian era, Patna was the capital of an extensive empire. But in spite of its antiquity the Province boasts of few regular historical records, and our knowledge of the past has to be laboriously pieced together from various sources of information, such as references in religious books, inscriptions on rocks, stones and coins, and the excavation of ancient sites. A great deal has already been done by individuals, but the field is too great to be covered by any individual, however learned and energetic he may be. In order that the best results may be obtained, it is necessary to undertake organized research under the auspices of a Society, which will not only ensure steady and sustained effort but will also arouse the interest and stimulate the energies of any one who may be able to contribute to our knowledge and which will, in its journal,

provide a means of recording all the information that may be collected. In the absence of a Society it often happens that interesting facts come to light, but pass unrecorded and are again forgotten. There is no danger of such a fate overtaking the great work now being done by Dr. Spooner, but it is constantly the case with discoveries on a smaller scale if they are not duly recorded. As a case in point I may mention that, last year, accident brought into my hands an old copper axe-head that had been dug up by a cultivator in the Palamau district. I sent it to Dr. Coggin-Brown of the Indian Museum, who reported that it was a very perfect specimen of the copper age, which intervened between the ages of stone and iron, and the first discovered in this Province. In the absence of a printed record, this find would soon be forgotten; while it is only reasonable to suppose that if systematic search were made, other similar implements might be discovered. Again I learnt only the other day from my friend, Babu Sarat Chandra Roy of Ranchi, that cinerary urns containing copper ornaments are from time to time dug up in the Munda country. Hitherto the finders have disposed of the articles found in these urns to local copper-smiths, and much valuable information has thus been lost. In Assam much light has been thrown on a period, otherwise unknown, by the discovery of copperplate land grants, in which interesting details were given regarding the dynasty of the kings making the grants and the areas under their rule. Most of these copperplates were found in the course of a special search which was instituted about twenty years ago. There is no reason why similar copperplates should not be forthcoming in this Province. A search for Sanskrit manuscripts might also have very valuable results. It is believed that the pandits of Tirhut and Orissa have many ancient manuscripts in their possession which might add greatly to our knowledge of the past history of the province.

"There is also ample field for research in the domain of anthropology. A great deal of interesting information has already been placed on record in various books such as Risley's Tribes and Castes of Bengal, but in these books the surface only

has, as it were, been scratched, and a great mass of information remains to be collected. This is especially the case in Chota Nagpur, where the aboriginal tribes have retained to some extent the primitive beliefs and practices that probably prevailed throughout India before the advent of the Aryan culture. Babu Sarat Chandra Roy, who has written a very valuable account of the Mundas, and has now in the Press an even more valuable account of the Oraons, has more than once urged the necessity of starting an anthropological journal for the province; and I may perhaps be permitted to read a brief note on the subject which he recently wrote at my request:—

For the last two years the idea of having an anthropological journal for our province, to serve not only as a record of anthropological information but also as a means of creating in the educated gentlemen of the Province an interest in Anthropology and as a medium of communication and co-operation between persons interested in the subject, has been uppermost in my mind.

My idea about such a journal has been that it may be usefully divided into two sections, one containing 'notes' and 'queries' on Anthropology, and another containing notes of important articles in the English and American anthropological magazines as well as notices of important contemporaneous anthropological publications. This supplementary section may serve to give the readers of the journal, who may not have the opportunity or the leisure to study such books or magazines, an idea of the latest views on anthropological questions. It may be useful to have a set of questions on the customs and beliefs of primitive tribes (such as those prepared by Dr. Frazer for the Royal Anthropological Institute) printed and circulated among intending contributors to the proposed journal. The contributors may also be induced to collect articles of anthropological interest to serve as the nucleus of an Ethnological Museum.

The province teems with customs and practices of the greatest anthropological interest. But unfortunately many such customs, habits and beliefs, are fast disappearing. Perhaps it does not make much difference whether archæological or historical research is taken in hand at once or is delayed for a year or so. But as for ethnographical research, in my humble opinion, the loss of even half a year may mean the loss of much valuable information that may irretrievably pass beyond our reach in the meanwhile.

"It will, I think, be generally admitted that there is ample scope for a Research Society such as the one which we propose to inaugurate. Many such Societies have of late sprung up in other parts of India. Now that Bihar and Orissa has its own Government, and will shortly have its own High Court, and, as we hope, its own University, it should also have its own Research Society."

3. After the Hon'ble Mr. Gait's remarks His Honour the President asked the gentlemen present to consider the several questions that were on the agenda list.

4. The Maharaja Bahadur of Gidhaur then rose and proposed that a Research Society should be established for Bihar and Orissa. This proposal was unanimously agreed to.

5. Rai Bahadur Purnendu Narayan Singh next proposed that the Society should be called "The Bihar and Orissa Research Society." This proposal was also unanimously accepted.

6. Nawab Shams-ul-'Ulama Saiyid Imdad Imam next proposed that the following subjects should be included within the scope of the Society :—

(1) History.
(2) Archæology and Numismatics.
(3) Anthropology and Folklore.
(4) Philology.

After a short discussion, it was agreed that the work of the Society should be limited to these four sections at present.

7. Professor Jadunath Sarkar next moved that Government should be approached for assistance in the way of official recognition and financial aid. He suggested that Government might be expected to assist at least in respect of historical and ethnological work, and also by the purchase of copies of the Society's journal for the Government libraries.

After discussion, it was agreed that Government might properly be approached for assistance. The principle was accepted; but it was decided that it should be left to the Council of the new Society to formulate definite proposals, which would be submitted for the consideration of Government through the proper channel.

8. The question of the constitution of the Society was next considered. Babu Ram Gopal Singh Chaudhri proposed that the Society should be constituted as follows :—

(1) A Patron.
(2) 5 Vice-Patrons.
(3) A President.

(4) A Council of 12 members (excluding the President, General Secretary and Treasurer, who would be *ex-officio* members).

(5) A General Secretary.

(6) A Treasurer.

He further proposed that each of the four sections specified above (para. 6) should have its own Secretary.

The proposed constitution was unanimously agreed to.

He next proposed that the first Council should hold office for three years, a fresh Council being elected annually thereafter at a general meeting of the members of the Society. An alternative proposal that four members of the Council should retire each year in rotation was made, but it was decided that it would be better to allow the first Council to remain in office for three years, so as to give them fuller opportunity of establishing the Society on a sound basis.

Babu Ram Gopal Singh Chaudhri further proposed that the Council should be directed to appoint a Sub-Committee of four or five from amongst their number, whose duty it would be to draw up a set of regulations for the Society, and to consider, *inter alia*, the rates of subscription, time and place of meetings, publication of the journal or transactions, as well as the formation of an editorial committee, or of a sub-committee in each section who would scrutinise all papers submitted for publication.

This was unanimously agreed to.

9. Mr. K. P. Jayaswal next proposed that His Honour Sir Charles Bayley should be invited to become the Patron of the Society, and the following gentlemen should be invited to become Vice-Patrons:—

The Hon'ble Mr. E. A. Gait, C.S.I., C.I.E., I C.S.

The Hon'ble Mr. E. V. Levinge, C.S.I., I.C.S.

The Hon'ble Maharaja Bahadur Sir Rameshwar Prasad Singh, K.C.I.E., of Darbhanga.

The Hon'ble Maharaja Bahadur Sir Ravaneshwar Prasad Singh, K.C.I.E., of Gidhaur.

Maharaja Bir Mitradaya Singh Deo of Sonepur State.

This proposal was carried with applause.

10. The Maharaja Bahadur of Gidhaur then proposed that the Hon'ble Mr. Gait should be chosen as President of the Council with the following gentlemen as members of the Council:—

The Hon'ble Mr. E. H. C. Walsh, C.S.I., I.C.S.

The Hon'ble Mr. C. E. A. W. Oldham, I.C.S.

Nawab Shams-ul-'Ulama Saiyid Imdad Imam.

Mahamahopadhyaya Hara Prasad Shastri.

V. H. Jackson, Esq., M.A.

D. B. Spooner, Esq., B.A. Ph.D.

S. Khuda Bakhsh, Esq., M.A., B.C.L.

K. P. Jayaswal, Esq., M.A.

J. Kennedy, Esq.

S. Sinha, Esq.

Professor Jogindra Nath Samaddar, B.A.

S. A. Raja, Esq.

Here Mr. Sinha rose to propose that Professor Jadunath Sarkar's name be substituted for his own as a member of the Council. Mr. Sinha having kindly adopted the suggestion that he should accept the post of Treasurer, thus becoming an *ex-officio* member himself, his amendment was agreed to.

It was further proposed that a Vice-President should be appointed, in view of the fact that the President-elect would be absent from Patna for a large portion of the year. It was decided that the Hon'ble Mr. Oldham should be Vice-President.

11. Mr. K P. Jayaswal next proposed that Babu S. C. Roy should be elected General Secretary, and Mr. S. Sinha, Treasurer.

Mr. Sinha suggested that as Babu S. C. Roy resided at Ranchi, it would be well to have a Joint-Secretary, who should be a resident of Patna. He proposed that Professor Jogindra Nath Samaddar should be elected Joint-Secretary.

Both proposals being accepted, it was resolved that Babu S. C. Roy should be General Secretary, Professor Jogindra Nath Samaddar, Joint-Secretary, and Mr. Sinha Treasurer.

12. Pandit Ramavatar Sharma then rose to propose that Mr. K. P. Jayaswal and Professor Jogindra Nath Samaddar should be elected Secretaries in the History Section, Dr. D. B. Spooner, Secretary for Archæology and Numismatics, Babu S. C.

Roy for Anthropology and Folklore, Mahamahopadhyaya Hara Prasad Shastri and Nawab Shams-ul-'Ulama Saiyid Imdad Imam, Secretaries in the section of Philology.

This was agreed to *nem. con.*

13. The question of the publication of a review or journal was next considered, as well as the form that such a publication should take, for instance, whether in addition to a journal, or record of transactions, fasciculi should also be published.

After some discussion it was resolved that a journal should be published, and if necessary fasciculi.

14. The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Saiyid Fakhruddin next proposed that the journal should be called the "Journal of the Bihar and Orissa Research Society." A suggestion having been made that the journal might perhaps be called the "Magadha Review," it was decided that this title would not be so appropriate, inasmuch as the scope of the Society would extend beyond the limits of ancient Magadha. It was ultimately agreed that the most appropriate title would be "Journal of the Bihar and Orissa Research Society."

15. Mr. Sinha then moved that a Provincial Museum and Library should be established. In the course of his remarks Mr. Sinha offered to place at the disposal of the Society, on suitable conditions, his own well-known large collection of books. This generous offer was received with applause.

After discussion, it was decided to accept the principle of the motion, *viz.*, that a Provincial Museum and Library should be established. It was pointed out that accommodation would also be required for the Society. The sense of the meeting was that it should be left to the newly appointed Council to formulate definite proposals in these respects.

16. The Hon'ble Babu Dwarka Nath having suggested that Tirhut might be further represented on the Council, it was proposed by Mr. Sinha, and agreed to unanimously, that Mahamahopadhyaya Ganga Nath Jha should be added to the Council in view of his deep knowledge of Sanskrit and Hindu Philosophy. The Hon'ble Mr. Jennings supported this proposal.

17. The proceedings terminated with a hearty vote of thanks, which was moved by the Hon'ble Mr. Oldham, to His Honour Sir Charles Bayley for having so kindly invited those present to meet at Government House and for the encouragement which his presence in the chair had given to the movement.
